

**In The Claims**

1-20. (Cancelled)

21. (New) An apparatus, comprising:

an ear wax trap comprising a microporous membrane, the ear wax trap adapted to couple to a hearing aid.

22. (New) The apparatus of claim 21, wherein the microporous membrane comprises foamed and stretched polytetrafluoroethylene.

23. (New) The apparatus of claim 22, wherein the foamed and stretched polytetrafluoroethylene contains approximately 9 billion pores per square inch or more.

24. (New) The apparatus of claim 21, further comprising:

a receiver tube removably connectable to a hearing aid, wherein the ear wax trap is disposed within the receiver tube.

25. (New) The apparatus of claim 21, wherein the microporous membrane comprises micro-pores having a size that substantially limits the passage of water through the membrane.

26. (New) The apparatus of claim 21, wherein the ear wax trap is waterproof.

27. (New) An apparatus, comprising:

a receiver tube removably coupled to a receiver and configured to fit within an ear of a user; and

an ear wax trap disposed within the receiver tube and comprising a microporous membrane.

28. (New) The apparatus of claim 27, wherein the microporous membrane comprises foamed and stretched polytetrafluoroethylene.
29. (New) The apparatus of claim 28, wherein the foamed and stretched polytetrafluoroethylene contains approximately 9 billion pores per square inch or more.
30. (New) The apparatus of claim 27, further comprising:  
a receiver removably coupled to the receiver tube.
30. (New) The apparatus of claim 27, wherein the microporous membrane comprises micro-pores having a size that substantially limits the passage of water through the membrane
31. (New) The apparatus of claim 27, wherein the ear wax trap is waterproof.
32. (New) An apparatus, comprising:  
an ear wax trap disposed within a removable member of a hearing aid,  
wherein the waterproof ear wax trap comprises a microporous membrane.
33. (New) The apparatus of claim 32, wherein the microporous membrane comprises foamed and stretched polytetrafluoroethylene.
34. (New) The apparatus of claim 33, wherein the foamed and stretched polytetrafluoroethylene contains approximately 9 billion pores per square inch or more.
35. (New) The apparatus of claim 32, wherein the microporous membrane comprises micro-pores having a size that substantially limits the passage of water through the membrane.

36. (New) The apparatus of claim 32, wherein the ear wax trap is waterproof.
37. (New) An apparatus, comprising:
  - a hearing aid; and
  - an ear wax trap disposed in the hearing aid, the ear wax trap comprising a microporous membrane.
38. (New) The apparatus of claim 37, wherein the microporous membrane comprises foamed and stretched polytetrafluoroethylene.
39. (New) The apparatus of claim 37, wherein the foamed and stretched polytetrafluoroethylene contains approximately 9 billion pores per square inch or more.
40. (New) The apparatus of claim 37, wherein the microporous membrane comprises micro-pores having a size that substantially limits the passage of water through the membrane.
41. (New) The apparatus of claim 37, wherein the ear wax trap is waterproof.